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S U P P L E M E N T.

To the CORRESPONDENCE of 1791. by James Anderson, M. D.

“SIR John Sinclair presents his Compliments to Dr. Anderson—Has the honor of sending him some Copies of an address to the Society for the Improvement of British Wool which was instituted at Edinburgh on the 31st of January last—He has heard so much of the Doctors Public Spirit, and attachment to the interests of the British Empire, that he is persuaded the Doctor will do every thing in his power to promote the important objects of the Association. It would be very desirable, in the first place to procure as much information as possible respecting the Sheep and other Animals in the East, carrying any Species of Fur—In the second place, it would be desirable to have specimens sent over of such breeds as are likely to answer in this Country—and in the third place, any subscriptions that would be obtained from the East, would not be unacceptable—Sir John Sinclair has the pleasure of enclosing some specimens of Shetland wool of which the Doctor may have heard so much, and which, though surpassed, in regard to fineness of pile, yet stands unrivalled for softness, warmth, and Colour.

Sir John Sinclair would be glad to hear from Doctor Anderson, as soon as he receives this Packet, another of which in case of accidents is sent by a different conveyance.”

WHITEHALL next door to Parliament }
Street, LONDON 10th March 1791. }

TO SIR JOHN SINCLAIR BART.

Dear Sir,

I Have received your favor regarding the institution of a Society in Scotland for improving British Wool and am not insensible to the good opinion of a Gentleman so justly distinguished in promoting Works of National Advantage and the General conveniencies of human Life.

It is no doubt probable that the Pastures of the British Islands are as suitable to the production of fine wool as any on the face of the Earth; and it gives me pleasure to communicate the few remarks that have come to my knowledge, in conformity to your wishes.

On Shewing the Shetland wool to a Native of Lucknow, he very gravely ask'd me if it was not the wool of Tibet, which satisfies me of two things, that there is no fine wool on the plains of Hindostan and that the Shetland wool is very fine.

The Countries I have visited afford no fine wool and the Sheep of this Coast are only covered with hair like that of a horse, being tall and strong they are sometimes used as beasts of burthen, have two appendages of Skin about a fingers length at the Throat, large prominent Eves, and a short hairy rump.

A Sheep of considerable Size is brought from the Coast of the Red Sea covered with coarse short wool, having the head and forepart of the body of a Jet Black colour, and the hind quarters of a bright white, the rump covered with a large mass of Fat of several pounds weight.

About one hundred miles west of this place the Country rises suddenly in hills to the level of Maifore, which cannot be less than six hundred yards above the level of the Sea and there the Sheep are woolly, and in no respect different from the Sheep in Europe, but the wool is strong and harsh in comparison with the Shetland wool, and is manufactured into a Stuff nam'd Cambalee by the Natives, which

which they use as a covering in Rainy weather and sometimes Carpets are made of it, as well as felt saddles.

It must be observed that all these Sheep are subject to the Rot in marshy Pasture or a very moist atmosphere and this may be the reason that there are no Sheep on any of the Tropical Islands, nor even on those parts of the Continent where the periodical rains fall very heavily during the hot months, of which the Country of Travencore and the Malabar Coast in low latitudes is an example.

Several years ago two weathers were brought from Moco or Jidda (by Capt. Anderson at that time Commander of His Highness The Nabob's Pilgrim Ship Success Galley) which were covered with wool of great length, and where it shed along the ridge of the back, had the appearance of hair, with the gloss and softness of raw Silk—Their Tails reached the ground although they were the largest Sheep I ever saw, and I suppose them Natives of the more Mountainous parts of Arabia, it may be that the Angora Sheep is of this Sort, when the Nabob's Ship sails next year I will recommend it the Capt. of her to procure some Rams and Ewes of the Arabian breed for the Society, as I have seen a Cashmieran Fleece which had this shaggy appearance.

I understand that Sir John Macpherson and Colonel Kyd, have sent Sheep from Cashmire to England by the way of Bengal, and there can be no doubt that the Society may obtain them in the same manner.

Perhaps our connection with the Turks may enable the Society to procure Sheep from both those Countries by a more speedy conveyance, for it is very probable that Spain has been enrich'd with the Cashmieran breed by the way of Arabia when the Moors were in possession, and Scotland by the Picts at a much earlier period, as it is the universal custom of the Orientals to have Sheep so domesticated as to follow their Master every where.

A Copy of your Publication shall be enclosed to Colonel Kyd at Calcutta, in hopes that he may find it practicable, as I am sure he will think it agreeable to send you the Tibet Sheep, there being no doubt that the best breed for both wool and Carcase on the old Continent is to be found on the more lofty and central Countries of Asia.

There is mention I think in Burgoannes History of Peruvian wool, the manufacture of which was a valuable Present from the King of Spain to the Grand Signior, but it is perhaps of more consequence to persevere in the care of those valuable Sheep you already possess, than attend to modes of procuring others that may possibly degenerate.

Permit me to request your attentive perusal of the enclosed Copy of correspondence which I have just published, for promoting some improvements in this Country, and your acceptance of some such raw Silk as my Farm yet produces, heartily wishing success to the laudable pursuits in which you are engaged.

I am with Sincere regard

Port St. George

Sept. 10th 1791.

(Signed)

Dear Sir yours &c.

JAMES ANDERSON,

TO DOCTOR ANDERSON,

Dear Sir,

BECAUSE I know the subject will be interesting to you. I take a pleasure in telling you that our Mulberry Plantation thrives extremely well; we have

have more than half surrounded a Field of upwards of Ten acres with a Ditch and cut a Canal from an adjacent Tank to supply it with Water, a considerable part of the Ground has been turned over, both by the Plough and Mowmy and manured from the Bottom of Tanks &c.

About ten thousand slips of Mulberry Cuttings have been already planted, in nearly equal numbers of the White and Red sort; and many of them have begun to put forth leaves, so that in a short time they will be fit to support a great many Silk Worms. In order to take care of these when they arrive, it will be proper to have a number of habitations built, for the Workmen and their families, with shelter for the Worms and their Silk, and this will be attended with some little expence, and I am of opinion they should be set up before or about the time that the Insects are introduced.

By the indefatigable care of our Surgeon Mr. Todd and Store Sergeant Oliver acting under his directions, the plantation has really a delightful appearance, and thousands of plants in addition will shortly be introduced

Chicacole 7th }
August 1791. }

I remain. Dear Doctor Yours &c.

(Signed)

C. FRAZER.

TO DOCTOR JAMES ANDERSON.

Dear Sir,

SOON after the date of my last letter I was put in possession of the piece of Ground mentioned in it, but was requested at the same time not to destroy any of the standing Crop of dry Grain, which the present Scarcity renders so valuable. I have therefore been chiefly employed in enclosing it and in planting five or six thousand cuttings which were all that Mr. Davidson could spare me, and which I expect will furnish me with plenty of cuttings for the rest of the Ground by the time the present Crop of Grain is cut down.

Vizagapatam 11th }

I am Dear Sir Yours &c.

August 1791. }

(Signed)

D. HALLIBUTON.

TO JAMES ANDERSON ESQ.

Dear Sir,

I HAVE to blame myself for having hitherto omitted to acknowledge the receipt of your Pamphlet of Correspondence & Letter of the 13th accompanied with worm Eggs which I received yesterday, but am sorry to inform you that by some accident or other the Tappal got wet, by which I found the Cloth on which the Eggs were laid very damp, so that I am apprehensive the Eggs may be damaged. The Natives whom I before mentioned to you I find perfectly conversant in the rearing and breeding of the Worms and without any instruction from me, they have formed a frame for the worms to spin on, which answers perfectly well, it is made as follows: they prepare a split Bamboo Matt about five feet square upon which they place edge ways, a fillet of split Bamboo about four inches in width as thus ~~XXXX~~ this is of several yard long and is placed on the Matt thus

the worms work in the open squares and form their Cocoons in those spaces.

The worms and Cocoons from Eggs laid here are much larger than from the Eggs you originally sent, so what this can be attributed you best can tell.

Trichinopoly 18th }

I remain Dear Sir Yours &c.

August 1791. }

(Signed)

R ANDREWS.

TO DOCTOR ANDERSON PHYSICIAN GENERAL.

Dear Sir,

THE Silk worm Eggs have arrived and Mr. Dick begs me to assure you that he shall take abundant care of them. We have plantations of Cuttings

Cuttings of the Mulberry Tree and we have plenty of old Trees, which will supply a sufficiency of leaves until it shall be judged safe to make use of the leaves from young Ones.

We have also completed a Piemontese Reel from the Drawing in your Publication, and hope to be considered as not inactive promoters of your laudable efforts for the introduction of a Silk Manufacture on the Coast.

Maddepollam 20th }

I am Dear Sir Yours &c.

August 191. }

(Signed)

JOHN CHAMIER.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Binny Masulipatam 24th August 1791.

“ I RECEIVED your favor of the 14th with the Silk worm Eggs which began to hatch two days ago, upon receipt of them I sent a part of them to Major Bonniyeaux at Condapilly, to Mr. Roxburgh at Samulcottah, and to Mr. M'Kenzie at Guntoor.

The Rains at and near Masulipatam have been extremely backward, but I have got 1500 young Cuttings from Hydrabad ready to transplant, and as I find branches dried in the shade may be carried to any distance and afterwards planted with success, there will be but little trouble in getting any quantity from that quarter.”

TO JAMES ANDERSON ESQ. PHYSICIAN GENERAL.

I THANKFULLY acknowledge the receipt of your Correspondence and also your favor of the Silk worm Eggs which arrived here on the 24 Ult. I am happy to inform you that we have not been unsuccessful at Tiagar in the rearing of Silk, tho' at first we were rather unfortunate. We obtained no more than two hundred Insects from the first parcel of Eggs you were so good as to favor us with and amongst these there was such a mortality that only thirteen lived to form their Cocoons; our second generation were remarkably healthy (tho' fed almost solely on the leaves of cuttings) and from them we collected about eight hundred Cocoons, all of which have been wound off, on a Reel made by Captain Flint upon the plan represented in your Correspondence. In a few days we shall have several thousands of Insects, as both the Eggs you last obliged us with and a large parcel of the first are now hatching. The Silk Worms from our own Eggs are considerably larger than those from the Eggs you sent us.

Tiagar 27th }

I am with much respect Dear Sir Yours &c.

August 1791. }

(Signed)

GEO. ANDERSON.

TO JAMES ANDERSON ESQ.

I DID myself the honor of writing to you two days ago, wherein I stated what advances we had made in rearing Silk at Tiagar. Our success hitherto must be attributed solely to the zeal and attention of Captain Flint, and as he now from a change of circumstances which respect himself, finds it incompatible to pursue the object any farther: he recommends me to represent to you that such is the case, and to ask your opinion whether Government will be at the expence of carrying it on. There is about ten thousand Mulberry Cuttings contiguous to his Garden in a piece of ground that belongs to a Malabar Family. There is also on this ground a Tiled House sixty feet in length fixed up by Captain Flint for the reception of Silk-worms, and containing every thing necessary for their propagation. I mentioned in my last, that Captain Flint had made a Piemontese Reel from the drawing in your publication: he has since completed another on a smaller scale than the first.—I have the pleasure to inclose a skaine of Silk wound off by Captain Flint.

I am &c.

Tiagar, 30th Aug. 1791.

(Signed)

GEO. ANDERSON.

TO

TO GEORGE ANDERSON Esq.

I AM favored with your letters of the 27th and 30th ulto. and truly sensible of Captain Flint's attention as well as your own. I am to thank you for the beautiful specimen of Silk you have transmitted, which shall be sent to Europe:

As you talk of altering the dimensions of the Reel, I will tell you that it requires to be of a considerable size, and the work-men have had a regard to the French Encyclopedia in its construction, a work you may perhaps not have an opportunity to peruse.

From that authority, I have caused them to make the length of the Frame, three feet ten inches, the width two feet four inches, the height, three feet seven inches, and the timber of which the Frame is made is squared to two inches:

The diameter of the Reel from out to out is twenty five inches, or six feet in the circumference for the Skaine of Silk which is wound upon it:

The first Wheel is eight inches in diameter, with twenty one teeth, the second nine, with twenty-four teeth, the third eight, with twenty one teeth, and the fourth thirteen, with thirty-five teeth, but you will observe that as the teeth or cogs are placed within the circumference, the real dimensions of the Wheels are thereby a little reduced.

The head of the Goer and Comer turns upon a pivot four inches from the center of the last or thirteen inch Wheel.

If these proportions are observed, there will be no great error in the construction of the Reels, and my disappointment in forwarding models to the different stations will be less sensibly felt, as besides Captain Flint, I have the pleasure to say, that Messrs. Chamier and Dick have likewise made a Reel at Maddépollam, after the drawing in my publication.

I am told that the Wheels in Bengal are made of Brass and sent from England at twenty five Guineas a set, but by making them of Wood, they will last longer, be more easily carried about, and a great saving established in the construction of the Reels, those I have made have the frame of teak-wood, the axles of red-wood, the Wheels black-wood, and the Teeth or Coggs, as well as the Flies of the Reel of Ebony.

You may acquaint Captain Flint, that although Government have not rendered me any father assistance than what appears in the printed Correspondence, yet I believe they will abide by the allowance of two Labourers an Acre for Mulberry Plantations, and that the support of the Malabar Family you mention, will only require an application to the collector of your district,

I am, dear Sir, Yours &c.

Fort St. George, 10th Sept. 1791

(Signed) JAMES ANDERSON.

TO ROBERT ANDREW'S Esq.

I AM favored with your letter of the 18th ulto. and will send you a fresh supply of Eggs in a few days, least the accident you mention, should have spoiled those I last sent you. The increase of the size of the Worms, is owing to regular and frequent feeding, which brings them to perfection in twenty two days, whereas if they are seldom fed, they cast their skins and grow very slowly indeed. I had an opportunity of observing some that had been fed only twice in twenty four hours, that at a month old were not bigger than others of ten days that had been fed five times in twenty four hours.

The

The description and drawing of your peoples apparatus, is a proof that Tippoo Sultaun is possessed of the Bengal Chunderkee, which is not to be wondered at, in case he had three hundred people from that country seven years ago, as I have been told by a French gentleman who served him nineteen years.

I have been informed from another quarter that he has likewise had people from Aurungabad; but as history tells us that the Greek Emperor had the Silk worms brought from China by the way of Samarcand, and this Chuuderkee far surpasses any thing known in Europe for supporting the worm in spinning, it is most probably a Bengal invention.

Trichinopoly is the most happily situated for a great manufacture of Silk; the labor of former more happy ages of Hindoostan having watered the banks of the Cavery in an extent of two hundred miles from the foot of the Gauts to the sea, more completely for the purposes of Agriculture than the Egyptians have been ever able to effect on the banks of the Nile, as the ruins of four ancient kingdoms, Mysore, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, and Tanjore, evince.

I have now in my garden Mulberry leaves enough to produce a Bale of Silk, of a hundred pounds weight immediately, and my Servants are expert in reeling it; but house room is wanting; whereas the Pagodas of Seringham, and the public Choultries afford you the utmost accommodation, and it is very satisfactory to me to have distributed the insects and established them all over the Coast, with persons of so much attention; nor will you blame me for chusing the land wind season to effect this great purpose, when I tell you that it is the general opinion that the land winds stoped the progress of Mr. Brooke and Mr. Jourdan in their attempts to cultivate Silk on the Coast.

I am with much regard, Dear Sir, Yours &c.

Fort St. George 10th Sept. 1791.

(signed)

JAMES ANDERSON.

TO JAMES ANDERSON ESQUIRE.

HAVING read with much pleasure your late publication, it strikes me that the culture of Silk, you there mention, might be greatly promoted by the Mussulmen who remain without Bread or employment in the Town of Itchapore where there are some hundred Families, the remains of the former Government, without any Subsistence beyond the Honorable Companys bounty.

There is a Manufacture of Silk, and Silk and Cotton Cloth at Barrampore, which is supplied with the raw materials over land from Bengal, whereas it is apparent from your Publication they might be supplied at a cheaper rate, and this observation will equally apply to Chicacole, and other parts of the Circars where similar Colonies of Musselmen are in an equally indigent state. Wishing sincerely to see so beneficial a manufacture fully established.

I am your &c.

Fort St. George. 15th September 1791.

(Signed)

HUGH MAXWELL

TO HUGH MAXWELL ESQUIRE.

WHATEVER Bounty the Honorable Company may bestow, on the Remnants of former Governments in the Northern Circars, employing them in making Silk would render their situation more comfortable, as well as benefit the Manufactures of the Country, by furnishing the article without the expence of land Customs, in its conveyance through the Marratta dominions. I am therefore to thank you for this communication, convinced as I am that a long residence in these Circars has given you a very adequate knowledge of their true interest.

I am with esteem, your obliged and obedt. Servt.

Fort St. George 16th Sept. 1791.

JAMES ANDERSON.